Weekly News From Around the Columbia Union Conference

October 2, 2013

Allegheny East Church to Hold Special Prayer Meeting to End Gov't Shutdown

Allegheny East Conference’s Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., is hosting a special prayer meeting tonight for the 800,000 federal workers, contractors, vendors and countless others impacted by the partial government shutdown.

"Please come and invite anyone you know who is being affected to come so we can pray for and with you," said Gene Donaldson, the church’s pastor. The church is located at 914 Massachusetts Avenue Northeast. How is your church ministering to those impacted by the partial government shutdown? Join the conversation on the Visitor Facebook page and let us know!
Potomac's Hyattsville Hispanic Members Celebrate New Home

After years of worshiping on Sabbath afternoons in the basement of the English-language church in Hyattsville, Md., Potomac Conference's Hyattsville Spanish church members recently moved into a home of their own. During their inaugural service last month, members celebrated along with Bill Miller, conference president; Jorge Ramirez, conference vice president of administration; Jose Esposito, director of the conference's Hispanic Ministries; and many other neighbors and friends.

The day included music from the group Alabanza Pura, a ribbon cutting, the unveiling of a mural with the names of all who faithfully helped to make the church a reality and a fellowship meal.

According to Pastor Fausto Salazar, church leaders worked with government officials over many years to build in an area that wasn’t zoned for a church. However, church members believed it was essential to their ministry to build in a community that was already home to large numbers of Hispanics.—Story by Potomac Conference and Visitor Staff; Photos by Mauricio Salazar

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Los miembros de la Iglesia de Hyattsville Hispana de Potomac Celebra un nuevo edificio
El Sabado 14 de Septiembre en un acto de gran solemnidad, alegría, y espiritualidad. Se realizó la inauguración del nuevo templo e instalaciones de la Iglesia Adventista Hispana de Hyattsville, ubicada en el 4815 Edmonston RD. Hyattsville, Maryland. Con la presencia de los oficiales de la Conferencia de Potomac, hermanos, amigos y vecinos de la populosa área de Hyattsville.

Presidente Elder Bill Miller, tuvo un mensaje espiritual de gran reflexión para todos los asistentes. El vicepresidente para asuntos administrativos Elder Jorge Ramirez tuvo la oración de consagración, el Ministerial Elder Jhon Cress, el director de comunicaciones Dan Jansen, el director de Mayordomía Hugo Chinchay. Ademas el pastor Jose Esposito presentó el desafío para alcanzar una comunidad hispana que rodea las nuevas instalaciones de esta floreciente iglesia. La música estuvo a cargo del grupo Alabanza Pura, Cidar Campos, Alfredo Gutierrez, Ingrid Vargas.

**Takoma Academy Opens Year With Record Number of Freshmen**
For the first time in several years, there is a waiting list at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md. There are no available slots in the freshmen class and the junior class is at capacity.

"We are excited about what the 2013-14 school year has to offer our students. With a record high of 63 freshmen, we are grateful to God for His favor and humbled by the wonderful Christian parents entrusting their precious children to our care," states Carla Thrower, principal.

Some of the freshmen (pictured) include Isaiah Earlington who says learning is very important to him as he aspires to become an attorney some day. Samantha Phasge is proud of following in her father's footsteps by attending TA. Slavik Tomenko is happy to have the opportunity to play soccer at TA and plans to go into the business world one day.—Story by Ron Mills

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**Vibrant Life Fun Run Marks 15 Years of Outreach**

When the Vibrant Life Fun Run/Walk took place last month on the grounds of the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., it was the 15th year of this community outreach. Some 100 runners and their families came to the event.

"We're all about promoting health—mind, body and spirit," Heather Quintana, the magazine's editor, told a local news reporter. The event has partnered with the North American Division's "Let's Move!" health initiative, which has spawned events all across the country on the same weekend. "I hope it gives people a chance to see the Review and Herald as a part of the community, not just a big building occupying space," says Debra Banks, event coordinator. "The people who came from the community left with smiles." The church was also featured in a local paper. Click here to read the story.—Story by Kim Peckham
New Jersey Church Ministers With Vegetable "Ice Cream"

At their recent community health fair, members of the New Jersey Conference's Mount Holly English church ministered to their neighbors with an unusual homemade vegan ice cream made of corn and cucumber. Though the combination was odd, it was a hit and proves "you can worship God and have some nice food at the same time," concludes Stefan Burton-Schnüll (pictured), the church’s pastor. Click here to watch the video.

New Associate Superintendent Appointed for Chesapeake Conference

The Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee recently appointed Mark Walker interim associate superintendent of schools. Walker, principal of the Rocky Knoll School in Martinsburg, W. Va., since 2002, transitioned to the conference office last month.
“In addition to many years of experience in classroom instruction he has served as a principal for 27 years and as a conference superintendent. This experience will be a great asset to our schools,” said Rick Remmers, conference president.

Walker holds a bachelor’s in elementary education from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., and master’s degree in education administration from Andrews University (Mich.). He also pursued additional graduate study in education psychology.—Story by Samantha Young

October Visitor Highlights Pennsylvania Church’s Successful Children’s Outreach

Jesus loves the little children/All the children of the world ... Strains of the familiar song virtually echo down dim corridors of Pennsylvania Conference’s Kenhorst Boulevard church—fading into the air and mingling with the clank of pots and pans as members sweep up crumbs, wipe away spaghetti stains and straighten chairs in preparation for another day. Annette Wilson wipes off a bead of perspiration and wearily straightens her 76-year-old back as she scoots in one last chair to a long table, checking to make sure everything is ready. Wilson and other members are tidying up after Friday evening’s Youth Connection, which includes dinner, a skit and Bible study. Youth Connection always kicks off a fun, Spirit-filled round of Sabbath activities for the 20-30 children who attend this small church in Reading each week. The members also provide Sabbath School, children’s church, AYS (aka “Sabbath afternoon church”), Wednesday night prayer sessions and summer camp.—Story by Debra McKinney Banks

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Artículo especial de Visitor: Bien alimentados


LEA MAS

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARYLAND

October 2-5: “Distorted Reality/The Real in Reality” is the theme for the Miracle Temple Back to School Revival. They will tackle the negative effects of reality TV on young people. The programs are from 7 to 8 pm. The church is located at 100 S. Rock Glen Road in Baltimore, Md.

October 4: The Emmanuel-Brinklow church will be hosting a premiere screening of The Record Keeper, a modern telling of the original battle between Good and Evil. Organizers are recommending that you be seated by 7:15 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at (301) 774-0400. The church is located at 18800 New Hampshire Avenue in Ashton, Md.
October 4-5: Adventist Recovery Ministries will be host the official North American Division training for Recovery Ministries, “Journey to Wholeness,” in Rockville, Md., at the Shady Grove Adventist Hospital Conference Center. The registration fee is $50 and includes training materials and Sabbath and Sunday lunch. Pre-registration is required. Make checks payable to the Columbia Union Conference. To register, contact Gerri Davis at (301) 596 0800; (410) 997 3414, ext. 561 or jdavis@columbiaunion.net. Click here for more.

October 5: Join us for the Washington, D.C., premiere of The Adventists 2. The sequel to The Adventists documentary will be shown at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., at 7 p.m. See the film before it airs on public television this fall, and enjoy a question-and-answer session with Emmy-winning director Martin Doblmeier. Get more information at columbiaunion.org/adventists2.

NEW JERSEY

October 6, 13: The Laurelwood church in Deptford will be hosting two, daylong disaster training sessions. The classes begin at 9 a.m. To register, contact Claudia Ramirez at CARami4144@aol.com.

VIRGINIA

September 28: Vonda Beerman, an Angel Award winner, will appear in concert at the Courthouse Road church at 11 a.m. Beerman travels the nation sharing God’s message of love through music. She is frequently aired throughout the world on 3ABN and numerous other networks. Bring your family and friends and enjoy this wonderful musical ministry. The church is located at 530 Courthouse Road in Richmond, Va.

October 5: Potomac Conference’s free, EQUIP regional training event is coming to the Patterson Avenue church in Richmond. You will have the opportunity to sign up for four classes. The classes are held 3 to 7:45 p.m. To register, click here.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 3-5: The First church in Washington, D.C., is inviting all youth and young adults to attend their “Stand Up, Stand Out” Youth & Young Adult Fest 2013. Speakers will include C.D. Brooks, former Breath of Life Ministries speaker, Jeremiah Green, youth pastor at Seabrook church in Lanham and Melvin Hayden III, pastor of the Mitchellville church in Largo, Md. There will be several Sabbath afternoon workshops, a praise concert and game night. The church is located at 810 Shepherd Street, NW, in Washington, D.C.

Click here for a full calendar of upcoming events around the Columbia Union.
Pastor Fausto Salazar stands in front of the new Hyattsville Spanish church located at 4815 Edmonston Road.

After years of worshiping on Sabbath afternoons in the basement of the English-language church in Hyattsville, Md., Potomac Conference’s Hyattsville Spanish church recently moved into a home of their own. During their inaugural service last month, members celebrated along with Bill Miller, conference president; Jorge Ramirez, conference vice president of administration; Jose Esposito, director of the conference’s Hispanic Ministries; and many other neighbors and friends.

The day included music from the group Alabanza Pura, a ribbon cutting, the unveiling of a mural with the names of all who faithfully helped in making the church a reality and a fellowship meal.

According to Pastor Fausto Salazar, church leaders worked with government officials over many years to build in an area that wasn’t zoned for a church. However, church members believed it was essential to their ministry to build in an area that was already home to large numbers of Hispanics. With their own church home, Hyattsville Spanish members can now hold worship services in the mornings and gives them freedom to expand their services to the community and their membership. Several of the services they are already offering include GED classes in Spanish on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m.; classes for citizenship preparation, crafts, sewing and piano; and a food bank.

The new church is located at 4815 Edmonston Road. To order a free copy of the program from that day or for more information about the programs offered, contact Pastor Salazar at (301) 613-2770 or pastorisalazar@gmail.com.

With the new church, Hyattsville Spanish members hope to grow their membership.
Potomac Conference and Hyattsville Spanish church leaders cut the ribbon to welcome attendees to the new temple.

Hyattsville Spanish church members and friends pray during the inauguration service.

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Please limit your comments to 500 words or less. Only one comment per person will be published.
Bienvenido a la presencia de la Unión de Columbia de los Adventistas del Séptimo Día en el internet. Desde nuestra sede en Columbia, Md., trabajamos para avanzar y ejecutar la misión de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día en el centro de los Estados Unidos--preparar a un pueblo para el pronto regreso de Cristo.

En esta página compartimos historias emocionantes de cómo Dios está obrando en las iglesias hispano hablantes. ¡Necesitamos su ayuda en mantener actualizada esta página! Le invitamos a enviarnos sus historias y noticias en inglés y español a Visitor@columbiaunion.net.

Los miembros de la Iglesia de Hyattsville Hispana de Potomac Celebra un nuevo edificio de Iglesia

Story by Potomac Conference and Visitor Staff; Fotos por Mauricio Salazar Publicado 10/2/13

El Pastor Fausto Salazar se para frente al nuevo edificio de la Iglesia Hispana de Hyattsville en 4815 Edmonston Road.

El Sabado 14 de Septiembre en un acto de gran solemnidad, alegria, y espiritualidad. Se realizo la inaguracion del nuevo templo e instalaciones de la Iglesia Adventista Hispana de Hyattsville, ubicada en el 4815 Edmonston RD. Hyattsville, Maryland. Con la presencia de los oficiales de la Conferencia de Potomac, hermanos, amigos y vecinos de la populosa area de Hyattsville. Presidente Elder Bill Miller, tuvo un mensaje espiritual de gran reflexion para todos los asistentes. El vicepresidente para asuntos administrativos Elder Jorge Ramirez tuvo la oracion de consagraciion, el Ministerial Elder Jhon Cress, el director de comunicaciones Dan Jansen, el director de Mayordomia Hugo Chinchay. Además el pastor Jose Esposito presento el desafio para alcanzar una comunidad hispana que rodea las nuevas instalaciones de esta floreciente iglesia. La musica estuvo a cargo del grupo Alabanza Pura, Cidar Campos, Alfredo Gutierrez, Ingrid Vargas. El pastor de la iglesia Fausto Salazar hizo entrega de certificados de reconocimiento a las distintas personas que contribuyeron para la construccion de este hermoso templo, que cuenta con todas las comodidades y servicios. Se realizo el tradicional corte de cinta inaugural y el descubrimiento de un mural con los nombres de los fieles y organizaciones que hicieron posible al realizacion de este sueño por muchos años anhelado. Concluyo el evento con una deliciosa cena de gala, ofrecida a todos los asistentes. El evento fue filmado por el grupo Valdense Films, y esta a la disposicion de todos los que deseen tener una copia de este exitoso evento. Los planes que la iglesia tiene para ofrecer a la comunidad ya estan siendo realizados:

- Clases en español para obtener el GED, se estan realizado los domingos de 8-12 am y Jueves de 7-9 pm. Ademas se ofreceran los siguientes cursos para la comunidad.
- Clases de preparacion para obtener la ciudadania
- Clases de Ingles basico
- Clases de manualidades y costura.
- Clases de piano.
- Banco de alimentos.

Para mas informacion puede llamar al pastor Fausto Salazar al (301) 613-2770 pastorfsalazar@gmail.com.

Con la nueva iglesia, los miembros de la Iglesia Hispana de Hyattsville, esperan poder crecer su feligresia.
Líderes de la Conferencia de Potomac y de la Iglesia Hispana de Hyattsville cortan la cinta para darle la bienvenida a los que asistieron a la nueva iglesia.

Miembros y amigos de la Iglesia Hispana de Hyattsville oran durante el servicio de inauguración.

**NORMAS Y POLÍTICA PARA LOS COMENTARIOS:** Columbia Union Visitor fomenta la conversación de calidad e invita sus comentarios. Todos los comentarios están sujetos a aprobación.

*Por favor limite sus comentarios a quinientas palabras o menos.*

Únase al diálogo:
Savion Grazette and his father, Francisco, signed up together to participate in the 15th annual Vibrant Life 5K Fun Run on Sunday morning near Hagerstown.

But just because they signed up together didn’t mean they finished together.

“I went off on my own to get my best time,” said Savion, a 14-year-old student at Greencastle-Antrim High School in Pennsylvania.

“I just try to finish,” his father said.

Both agreed, however, that the purpose of the event was well worth shedding a few pounds of sweat.

“It means a whole lot to us,” Francisco Grazette said. “There are a lot of people suffering right now. We’re just glad to help.”

Heather Quintana, editor of Vibrant Life magazine, which is published at the Review & Herald Publishing Co. off Oak Ridge Drive, said the event was staged to help raise money for food banks in Hagerstown. A portion of the $25 registration fee that each runner paid, she said, would be used to fund that cause.

“We’re all about promoting health, mind, body and spirit,” she said.

Nearly 100 people participated in the fun run, and 100 more showed up to give their support. The runners and walkers navigated a cross-country course that stretched around the publishing company’s sprawling grounds.

Kellen Duke, 26, of Winchester, Va., won the race with a time of 18:55.

Quintana said that although some of the proceeds from this year’s event would be used to feed the hungry, money from previous years has been donated to support other causes, such as providing shoes for the needy.

In addition to the race, children played “Simon Says” and got a glimpse of a stock car and a Maryland State Police helicopter that landed in a field near the company parking lot.

The age groups of the participants ranged from 5 to 8, to 70 and older.

Philip Lewis, 80, said he drove from Ohio to run in the race.

“For one thing, it’s at the right time of year. It’s very cool,” he said.

Lewis, who finished in 45:51, said he had a heart attack in 2008 and works out about three times a week.
to stay healthy.

He said the race is a good way to have fun.

“I believe in a vibrant life,” Lewis said. “I believe in living a good lifestyle.”
In Reading, Pa., one church nourishes hungry neighborhood children—physically and spiritually.

Story by Debra McKinney Banks Published 9/26/2013
Wilson made a startling request, which raised a few eyebrows and nervous chuckles from the aging congregation: “I need some babies to fill this room!” While she didn’t get the babies she requested, God was already using Elsa Perez (pictured, left), another faithful Kenhorst member living near the church, to pave the way for what has become a thriving children’s ministry. 

**“Ms. Elsa’s” Kitchen**

Located a few blocks away from the church is the Oakbrook public housing development, home to many families from various parts of Latin America: Guatemala, Honduras, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. For nearly two months, “Ms. Elsa,” who is also Dominican, provided hot, nourishing meals from her kitchen each week to “many, many kids” whose families were struggling to make ends meet. “I [would] try to find space for them in the kitchen, on the floor, sitting on the couch—wherever I could find a chair. It was a lot! They loved coming to my home,” she recalls.

But, she wanted to do more than just feed their hungry stomachs; she wanted to feed their souls. “They wanted to learn about Jesus. They asked a lot of questions,” she remembers. Overwhelmed, Perez approached Wilson and invited her to help. Together, they got the local housing development to offer space for the group to meet, where the church volunteers continued to minister to the little ones for more than a year. That’s when Wilson’s husband, Clarence, suggested the ladies move the activities into the basement of their nearby house.

Soon, Friday nights at the Wilsons became time for food, songs, Bible stories and Scripture memorization for the 5- to 12-year-olds who gathered there each week. They planted seeds, and as word spread, more children attended, and Wilson realized that this had potential to become something big. After two years at their home, it was time to get the church involved. Joining forces with Youth Connection seemed the obvious choice.

**Connecting Local Youth**

Youth Connection is a program the church originally intended for kids aged 12 and up. Fred Morgan—a retired teacher and first elder at Kenhorst—creates skits and corresponding Bible studies to engage them on Friday evenings.

“Seeing the kids learning about the history of the Bible, hearing them pray—it’s very moving,” says 18-year-old Kayro Tanis, who was baptized last year. At his father’s suggestion, he started attending Kenhorst to enhance his English skills. (His parents are from Haiti.) He later approached Morgan for more in-depth Bible studies.

“He accepted everything, but there was an issue with the Sabbath,” Morgan explains. Tanis sometimes played sports on Sabbath at the public school he attended. “When I asked him about baptism, he said he wasn’t ready yet,” Morgan adds.

Six months later, Tanis gave his heart and life fully to the Lord. “It brings me joy to see other children learn about God,” he says. “It’s exciting!”

Incorporating the younger children into the opening skit segment each week provides opportunity for the two age groups to worship together, and has become a high point for the kids. Occasionally, the youth also put on larger performances for the church.

Ten-year-old Ziriyah Rodriguez and her younger sister, Zulma, look forward to these weekly gatherings. “I really like doing the skits,” Ziriyah says. “I work really hard and make time to learn my parts.” Their mother, Evangeline Vasquez, is also thrilled to see the changes in Ziriyah’s behavior and the relationships the girls have formed with others as a result of attending the programs and the church’s school, Reading Junior Academy, where their tuition is sponsored by church members. “[Ziriyah] has become more knowledgeable about the Bible and God, and loves to share it,” says Vasquez, who is now taking Bible studies.

**“Cool” Summer Outreach**

During summers, it was often difficult to maintain the weekly programs as Kenhorst members left for vacations and other seasonal events. But, those running the kids’ programs didn’t want to lose momentum with the contacts and connections they made with the neighborhood children. So, they signed up to participate in a pilot program now called Cool Camps, a traveling summer day camp sponsored by local churches within the Pennsylvania Conference. Cool Camp hires youth from around the conference to provide six weeks of VBS-style programming—arts and crafts, sports and swimming. Each participating church gets camp staff for one week before they move on to the next assignment.

Camp staff serve “rough, tough kids from the projects, but they are in such need of love!” exclaims Javier Mendez, Cool Camp director. He reports that a record 96 children, aged 5-11, attended this past summer’s camp at Kenhorst—the church’s fifth year participating. And, about 85 percent of the attendees are not from Seventh-day Adventist families.
“Sometimes with these little kids, you think, ‘Are they really getting it?’ You know, the Bible stories, etc.,” he explains. “One year, for the first time, I felt impressed to make an [altar] call. I asked, ‘Who wants to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior? Come up to the front with me so we can pray.’ I was floored! Kids kept coming and coming—crying and weeping. Counselors [prayed] with the kids, [with] the Holy Spirit impressing on them what to even pray for! It was a powerful experience!”

The Cool Camp feeling continues during the school year on the second and fourth Sabbath afternoons. After potluck, students from neighboring Blue Mountain Academy conduct the “Sabbath afternoon church” program, where they lead out in crafts, outdoor activities and Bible games.

**Fishers of Children**

Ever Perez, the first Hispanic, bilingual pastor for the church, is enthusiastic about Kenhorst church’s thriving children’s and youth ministries. He and his family—wife, Dixie, and daughter, Kailey—all take an active role in the increasingly popular Wednesday night prayer meeting services. Many of the neighborhood children are now attending this program as well, and have grown the nightly attendance exponentially.

Even at 6-foot 2-inches, Pastor Perez will sit on the floor surrounded by the children. Animated and lively, he easily holds the kids’ attention throughout the PowerPoint Bible story presentations he creates using colorful, even humorous, pictures. Dixie prepares quiz questions to ask during a rousing post-game challenge to help reinforce the lesson. Downstairs, Kailey does crafts with the younger children.

“Many of [the neighborhood children] have no biblical foundation,” explains Pastor Perez. “We keep it simple—10-15 minutes for the story, then the game for another 15 minutes. It really gets solidified into their minds this way. They still remember stuff we taught them months ago!” He says the children are hungry for God’s Word, and are eager to share the love of Jesus with others.

“A girl in my neighborhood wanted to pray for her grandma and her family but had never prayed before,” Ziriyah shares. After learning about prayer during one of the children’s meetings, Ziriyah taught the little girl how to pray. “I showed her that when you pray, you have a beginning—‘Dear God’—then the ‘body,’ where you tell Him [anything], and then end it—‘in Jesus’ name, Amen.’”

Today the Wilsons, Elsa Perez, Fred Morgan, Javier Mendez, Pastor Perez and their dedicated volunteers—fueled with a strong desire to work with children—are the backbone of this thriving ministry conglomerate that’s filling the Cradle Roll room and a few others. Their recipe for success remains a hot meal (often provided by generous members who pay out of pocket); simple, fun programs; and solid, relevant biblical instruction; all sprinkled generously with love—including lots and lots of hugs.

Red, yellow, black and white—all are precious in His sight …

*Debra McKinney Banks attends the New Joy Fellowship church in Hagerstown, Md.*

*Click here* for 5 ways Kenhorst is building community relationships.

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Cinco maneras en las que Kenhorst establece relaciones en la comunidad

1. **Crea confianza.** No esperes que te acepten con los brazos abiertos al principio. Sé amigable y accesible. Sé paciente—llevará tiempo.

2. **Solamente el método de Cristo traerá verdadero éxito.** Dedica tiempo a conocer las necesidades de la comunidad y luego
conócelos a ellos.

3. **No reinventes la rueda.** Considera la posibilidad de trabajar como voluntario en un ministerio sin fines de lucro o en una agencia de servicios ya establecida.

4. **Brinda transporte.** Muchas personas no tienen un medio de transporte confiable. Busca la manera de satisfacer estas necesidades con un vehículo confiable y asegurado. Incluso podrías establecer un cronograma de viajes compartidos.

5. **Conoce a alguien de la comunidad.** Considera la raza, la cultura o la dinámica del idioma de la comunidad. Establece contacto con alguien que ya es parte de la comunidad.

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Únase al diálogo:
Upcoming Events Around the Columbia Union

MARYLAND

September 28: The Columbia Union will sponsor Religious Liberty Day at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. Wally Carson, the union’s Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) director and general counsel, speaks in the first service; Brent Walker, from the Baptist Joint Committee, speaks in the second. Sabbath School features John Graz and Orlan Johnson from the General Conference’s PARL department. At 4 p.m. Karla Rivera Bucklew will present a mini-concert, followed by a panel of experts discussing various aspects of religious liberty in the United States and abroad.

September 29: The Metropolitan church in Hyattsville is hosting a vegetarian cooking class with Judith Richardson at 2 p.m. Richardson is a gourmet vegan/total vegetarian chef who has been featured on 3ABN, and who has done cooking demonstrations at various Whole Foods and health food stores in Florida. The registration fee is $20, but if you sign up online you can register for only $10, and you'll be eligible to win a brand new juicer.

September 29: The George E. Peters school in Hyattsville, Md., is inviting everyone to attend their fall festival from 12 to 4 p.m. Bring the family and enjoy moon bounces, pony rides, a dunking booth, face painting and more. The school will also be hosting its first bakeoff. Enter your recipes for cookies, cakes and pies to compete for a cash prize! For more information, call (301) 559-6710.

October 2-5: “Distorted Reality/The Real in Reality” is the theme for the Miracle Temple Back to School Revival. They will tackle the negative effects of reality TV on young people. The programs are from 7 to 8 pm. The church is located at 100 S. Rock Glen Road in Baltimore, Md.

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October 5: There will be a special screening of The Adventists 2 across the division. This sequel to The Adventists documentary is being prepared for broadcast on PBS stations nationwide this fall. A special screening at will be shown at 7 p.m. at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. Watch the ANN interview with Emmy-winning director Martin Doblmeier. Watch The Adventists 2 trailer. Contact John Dillon for more information.

October 5: The 8th Annual Maryland Men of Faith Conference themed “I Will Make a Covenant,” will take place at the Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. Shane Anderson, pastor of the New Market (Va.) church, focuses his messages on the story of Job. Seminar topics include media and the brain, how to have a personal relationship with Jesus, marriage, prayer, addictions, Prison Ministries, health and current Issues in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Register by September 30 at mmo.org. Questions? Email info@mmo.org, or call (410) 465-6864.

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VIRTUAL

October 1: The alumni association for Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., is collecting stories of how the school has impacted your life. Send your stories by October 1 to Susan Laurence Cooksey, alumni association president, at susan.cooksey@ta.edu, or Ronnie Mills, director of institutional advancement, at rmills@ta.edu. The goal is to publish and present this book to alumni during the 2014 Alumni weekend. All proceeds from the book will benefit the Worthy Student Fund.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 28: Leslie Pollard, PhD, Oakwood University’s (Ala.) president and the Advancement & Development Division are hosting a reception for graduates and friends at the Washington Hilton Hotel located at 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW, in Washington, D.C. A short vespers program will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by light refreshments and fellowship. The Aeolians, recent gold medalists of the World Games, will perform at 7 p.m. Hear about the latest developments at Oakwood, enjoy the lively discussion, get a bite to eat and come prepared to get involved and support your alma mater. For more details, email alumni@oakwood.edu or call (256) 726-7039.

October 3-5: The First church in Washington, D.C., is inviting all youth and young adults to attend their "Stand Up, Stand Out" Youth & Young Adult Fest 2013. Speakers will include C.D. Brooks, former Breath of Life Ministries speaker, Jeremiah Green, youth pastor at Seabrook church in Lanham and Melvin Hayden III, pastor of the Mitchellville church in Largo, Md. There will be several Sabbath afternoon workshops, a praise concert and game night. The church is located at 810 Shepherd Street, NW, in Washington, D.C.